

ROYAL DUBLIN SOCIETY.

6436

- 7 FEB. 1889

7<sup>th</sup> Ely Place

7<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1889

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Dear Moss

Please lay my resignation as  
Hon. Sec. of the R.D.S. in the hands  
of the Council. The meeting  
yesterday has technically <sup>separated</sup>  
back with disapproval the only at-  
tempt to encourage scientific men  
to work for the Society that ~~has~~  
has even been proposed and I  
am only too glad to take advantage  
of that technical point in order to  
get rid of what has been ever since  
~~my resignation~~ I undertook it  
a most irksome and disagreeable

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work. In tendering my resignation I would respectfully advise the Council to take advantage of my closing remarks <sup>yesterday</sup> in which I explained that the Council attributed very little importance to the mode of election but great importance to the question of Fellowships. I would most strongly urge them to refer the By Laws back to the Society with the modes of election changed but no alteration in the question of Fellowships. I think for instance annual Fellowships would open upon ~~to~~ the ridicule of the whole Scientific World and our proposed Fellows are removable by expulsion under our new charter and an Honorary Office

conferred like an Hon. Membership for work done can on no reasonable grounds be made a subject for annual election. As I have said this proposal is the only substantial attempt of the Society to <sup>advance</sup> encourage its scientific functions upon whose vitality all its <sup>rights</sup> ~~claims~~ to Leicester House depend and independently of the ~~probability~~ <sup>imbecility</sup> of neglecting an opportunity of doing a great and lasting service to Science and the jealousy that refuses to be source of honour there is the folly that jeopardises our possession of Leicester House in the face of a hostile Department anxious to minimise our functions to the utmost. [If my resignation impresses upon the members how very strongly I feel in this matter it may do more good than all of my other services.] I would

disclaimers of ill designs emanate  
from the Council are received with  
derision. It is simply laughably  
absurd that the members should  
rejoice what really gave them more  
power because forsooth they were  
told that it gave them less by plausible  
speakers who had not really gone to the  
bottom of the matter. The only remedy  
I see is to frequently bring things  
before the members for their opinion  
but I am afraid that it will be im-  
possible to get busy energetic men  
to be bothered to act on the Council  
if they have to be continually referring  
matters to the Society who will really  
never disagree with them nor be of the  
least practical use in advising ~~them~~ on

the proper course of action. The government of the  
Society will then lapse into the hands of  
interested agitators and the end of the  
Society will then be near. All this will  
follow because of the want of confidence in  
really trustworthy leaders truly representative  
of the Society, a want of confidence got up  
by busy agitators most of whom are only  
actuated by an uncontrollable passion for  
agitation but amongst whom are some of  
the deadliest enemies of the class who at  
present rule the affairs of the Society.

Yours sincerely

Geo. Bras. Fitzgerald

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